



Vagabond Tours Sustainability Policy

Vagabond Tours is committed to reducing its impact on the planet, our environment, and the people we interact with on a daily basis. We are dedicated to operating in an environmentally and socially responsible manner while promoting the preservation of Ireland's natural and cultural heritage.

Policy Statement

As one of Ireland's leading tour operators, we are committed to promoting responsible and sustainable tourism practices that preserve the natural beauty, cultural heritage and communities of Ireland.

At Vagabond Tours, we recognise the immense responsibility we have in ensuring that our tours contribute positively to the places we visit and the people we encounter.

Our commitment to sustainability goes beyond words; it is ingrained in everything we do. We are committed to a code of best practice in all aspects of our business, including our relationship with, and effect on, the environment and the communities that we visit.



We believe it is our responsibility to constantly monitor our business methods to make sure that our environmental impact is as low as possible.

We at Vagabond invite you to join us in preserving the wonders of this extraordinary country for generations to come.

We have adopted The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) definition of responsible tourism:

“Tourism that takes full account of its current and future environmental, social and economic impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and communities” - [The World Tourism Organisation \(UNWTO\)](#)

Scope

This policy applies to all employees and all aspects of the company; from the office headquarters to on-the-road guiding. It also extends to our guests, third-party suppliers and the local communities that we visit. The Company aims to minimise the impact on the environment in all areas of operations.

Aims

1. To pursue further environmental certifications and implement best practices.
2. We aim to reduce our energy consumption by turning off all appliances in the office when not in use and unplugging all appliances when not in the



office. We use Energia an Irish energy supplier which is 100% renewable. We have solar panels at our headquarter since 2019. We are aiming for a 7% reduction in our energy and carbon, will result in a 50% reduction in our carbon footprint per day by 2030, in line with the headline goal of the Glasgow Declaration.

3. To reduce waste in all areas of the company. This includes all recycling, waste going to landfills, hazardous waste compostable waste and single-use plastics. We aim to reduce by 1% by 2025.
4. To reduce water in all areas of our company. This includes in-office on the vehicles and while on tour. We aim to reduce by 1% by 2025.
5. To encourage ethical purchasing in all areas of the company.
6. To support biodiversity and heritage locally.
7. To encourage our suppliers and other members of the tourism-related business community in Ireland to adopt similar practices.
8. To maintain and strengthen our relationships with local communities and local livelihoods by not adversely affecting local access to livelihoods, including land and aquatic resource use, rights-of-way, transport, and housing.
9. To regularly review and assess our sustainability practices to identify areas for improvement and to welcome feedback from our guests and stakeholders to enhance our sustainability efforts.
10. To continue to nurture and respect Ireland's landscape, culture, and heritage (this includes no buying or selling of any artefacts) by bringing and educating our small-group, low-impact tours to rural Ireland.



Implementation

The policy will be implemented in the following ways:

- Measuring and monitoring energy and water consumption.
- Monitoring and reducing waste within the company.
- Producing a procurement policy for guidelines on ethical purchasing.
- Committing to support the local communities our tours visit.
- Continue to support local environmental organisations such as BirdWatch Ireland and Leave No Trace through membership.
- Continue to Adopt Leave No Trace principles on all our tours.
- Continue to offset the carbon we cannot avoid each year using only reputable organisations.
- Continue to reduce our carbon emissions year-on-year.
- To dedicate 1% of turnover each year to sustainability initiatives.
- Continue to be transparent about our sustainability goals by sharing our progress, achievements, and challenges with stakeholders, guests and the public.



Rob Rankin

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Owner, Vagabond Tours

Date: August 14th 2023

Edwina Horgan

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Sustainability & General Executive

Date: August 14th 2023